(c) ***Tiit*** cost per unit of energy produced at nuclear statio$_{ns}$ i$_s$ comparable with the cost per unit of energy produced at thermal powe$_r$ stations which are commissioned at approximately the same time.

Chief of Antty Staff's Remarks regarding Indian Intervention i$_n$ Sri Lanka

1600. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-ENDRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Army Staff has made some remarks i$_n$ an interview in the "Indian Defence Review" regarding the merits $_0$f the Indian intervention in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether thes$_e$ remarks have raised a controversy;

(c) whether such remarks are in consonance with the high traditions of political neutrality maintained by the Indian Army; and

(d) whel'he$_r$ Government ha$_s$ brought 'bis to the notice of the Chief of Army iff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The Chief of Army Staff in hi$_s$ interview to the "Indian Defence Review", had expressed his concern over doubts and reservations being expressed 'n some quarters regarding the presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka, because such expressions could have an adverse impact on the morale of the personnel of th$_e$ IPKF. His remarks had ^{n0} political bias but were aimed at ensuring that the Defence personnel, because of such discussions, might not have occasion to doubt the legality of their presence in Sri Lanka and the legitimacy of the operations they are engaged in.

For the Chief of the Army Staff the moral$_e$ of his men is $_a$ very legitimate concern. Therefore, the remarks have in no way undermined 'he high traditions of political neutrality of the Armed Forces of 'ie country.

Government 'are aware of some $^{rcac-}$ tioris i$_n$ the pfe^{ss} to the remarks of the Chief of Army Staff, but are not a'ware of any controversy as such.

Refusal to Plan Allocation fo$_r$ Railways

1601. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-ENDRA: Will the Minister of PLANN ING b$_e$ pleased to state;

(a) whether the Planning Commission has refused an allocation of Rs. 4,300 crores for the Railways' Annual Plan for 1988-89; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATfi IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): ('a) and (b) A$_n$ outlay of Rs. 3,850 crores has been earmarked for the Railway's Annual Plan 1988-89. This level of investment i$_s$ considered appropriate to meet the projected traffic on the Railways and the development of the sector i$_n$ accordance with the Seventh Plan priorities.

Indian Casualties in Siachen due to High Altitudinal Problems

1602. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Ministe$_r$ of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is $_a$ fact ^{tnat} there have been a number of casualties of Indian soldiers due to frost, high altitudinal problems o$_n$ Siachen Glacier;

(b) if so, what is the numbe$_r$ of soldiers who died due to arctic conditions on Siachen Glacier so far; and

(c) what steps have bee$_n$ taken by Government to Tetaove the defiaenciels' in the arrangements|facilities to **fifih*** the clitrfatic conditions at such $_a$ high altitude to prevent the casualties of Indian soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Indian troops have suffer<;d some casualties on account $_0$f th$_e$ climatic conditions an<j the problem of high altitude i$_n$ the Siachen Glacier area. It would not be desirable to disclose detail$_s$ in this regard.

(c) Necessary measures have bee$_n$ taken by Government to prevent casualties amongs$_t$ our troops due to extreme °°ld the high attitude problem$_s$ in the area. These include provision of special snow clothing, mountaineering and ski equipment, special arctic tents, snow mobiles and fibre glass shelters, provision of adequate medical facilities and periodic turn over of troops.

Strengthening of the Indian Navy

1603. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Navy, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a f^{act} that ther$_e$ is an extensive presenc$_e$ of the foreign Nava] powers in Indian ocean; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps take$_n$ t$_0$ strengthen the Indian Navy to meet any external threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV); 0a) to (c) Government is aware of the extensive military presence of external forces i$_n$ **the** Indian Ocean. Government keeps all developments having a bearing on the country's security under constant watch and takes appropriate counter-measures, from time to time, to m'aintai$_n$ full defence preparedness. The Indian Navy i$_s$ being cons$_T$ tantly re-equipped, modernised and developed in! keeping with the emergi^ threat perceptions.

Per capita income in the States

1604. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the national per capita income at current prices for the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 and how does it reflect in the actual positio$_n$ i$_n$ respect of availability of goods and services to the bulk of the under priviledged sections mostly living in the rural areas in the country;

(b) which of the States have the lowest per capita income (with figures); and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation in the States which have the lowest pei capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGKENGTI): (a) The National Per Cap Income at current pi ices tor the yea 1985-86 was Rs! 2721 (Provisional) and Rs. 2975 (quick estimates) for the yeai * 1986-87 (As per New Series on National Accounts Statistics). The national per capita income is an indicator of average per capita availability of goods and services on the national level.

(b) The State-wise information of p;r capita net State domestic product at current prices f«r th$_e$ year 1986-87 is available only in respect of 12 States and 2 Union Territories. The per capita State domestic product at current prices for the year 1985-86 is however, available in respect of most of the States The all-India estimates are prspared by using all the data available to Central Statistical Organisation from various sources. The State Governments prepare these estimates based on Sfate-wise data available to hem. Therefore, all-India estimates and State-wise estimates are not shictly comparable. Even betwee.i the States, owing to difference in methodology and